



## Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

# News

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### Justices mourn Retired Judge James Stucky

For immediate release Sunday, March 24, 2019

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Retired Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (Kanawha County) Judge James Stucky died this morning, March 24, 2019, in Hubbard Hospice House in Charleston.

Judge Stucky received a disability retirement in April 2018. He had been a circuit judge since 1997, when he was appointed to a vacant seat. He was elected in 1998 and re-elected in 2000, 2008, and 2016.

Judge Stucky was raised in Kanawha County and graduated from George Washington High School. In 1975 he received a bachelor's degree *magna cum laude* in sociology from West Virginia University and in 1978 received a law degree from West Virginia University College of Law. He was Kanawha County Prosecutor from 1983 to 1985 then entered private practice. He became an assistant Kanawha County Prosecutor in 1995, a position he held when he was appointed to the bench.

He was a member of the West Virginia Judicial Association and a former coach of Kanawha Valley Girls AAU basketball teams. He and his wife, Brenda, had four children.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Beth Walker said, "On this sad day, we are grateful for Judge Stucky's many years of admirable public service and express our sincere condolences to Brenda and his entire family."

Justice Tim Armstead, a former Speaker of the House from Kanawha County, said, "I got to know him well when we were campaigning for offices and he had a good sense of humor. He served Kanawha County and our state with honor and dedicated public service. He was a fair judge, and the court system will miss him."

Justice John Hutchison, a former longtime Raleigh County Circuit Judge, "It's a very, very sad day for the judiciary in the state of West Virginia. Jim was a friend and an absolutely superb circuit judge, and he will be missed."

Justice Evan Jenkins said, "Judge Stucky spent his career in public service. He approached every task and every decision with dedication. His respect for the rule of law was exemplary. His friends in the court system will miss him."

Supreme Court Justice Margaret Workman, a former Kanawha County Circuit Judge, said, "Jim Stucky dedicated his life to the justice system, serving as the Prosecuting Attorney and a Circuit Court Judge for Kanawha County for many years. He faced major health challenges with great courage and dedication to his work. Jim was an excellent judge, a wonderful person, and a good friend. He was hard-working, intelligent,

and always exceptionally fair and courteous to everyone. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.”

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

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